

# ***NEWS***

*From the Office of*

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### **Needles to Get Academic and Job Training Program for Young Adults**

SAN BERNARDINO – The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday approved a contract to bring an expanded academic development and job training program for young adults to Needles.

“This is a great opportunity to give the young people of Needles the tools they need to be successful,” said First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt. “With educational and job training support, these young adults will be better equipped to build productive lives and become real assets and leaders in their community.”

Mental Health Systems (MHS) operated a successful Summer Youth Employment Program in Needles during the summer of 2009 for 35 youth, which was well-received in the community. Last November, MHS proposed to operate a year-round program in Needles. In February, the proposal was recommended for approval by the Workforce Investment Board Youth Council, and in March, the full Workforce Investment Board recommended that the project be funded.

The Board of Supervisors on Tuesday approved a \$263,417 contract with MHS to run the program through June 30, 2012 using federal Workforce Investment Act funds,

The program will be able to accept 35 young adults from ages 18 through 21 and will include academic tutoring and study skills training, occupational skills training, adult mentoring, career guidance and work experience. The program is targeted at young adults who are out of school, but high school seniors may be eligible in certain circumstances. For participants who do not have a high school diploma, the program will assist them to achieve a diploma or its equivalent. All participants will be tested for basic academic skills and will receive assistance and tutoring for any subjects in which they need further development.

For information on the program call the Needles Center for Change at (760) 326-4590.